



Karin Friberg Heppin

This thesis describes the making of a Swedish medical information retrieval test collection, unique in its kind in providing a possibility to choose user group: doctors or patients. It also describes a series of pilot studies which demonstrate what kind of research can be performed with such a collection. The pilot studies are focused on search key effectiveness: What makes a search key good, and what makes it bad?

The thesis demonstrates the need to bring linguistics and terminology into information retrieval research. Documents are built of terms, as are topics and search queries. It is important to understand the functions and features of these terms.

The problem of compounds is addressed. Compounds, if used as search keys, will not match corresponding simplex words in the documents and simplex words as search keys will not match corresponding compounds. The thesis discusses how compounds can be split to obtain more matches, without lowering the quality of a search result. Another aspect is to look at how the different language of medical professionals and lay people can be utilized when choosing search keys, in order to find documents written with one of the groups in mind.

Karin Friberg Heppin / Resolving Power of Search Keys



GÖTEBORGS
UNIVERSITET

ISBN 978-91-87850-41-7
ISSN 0347-948X



22•2010

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Data linguistica